

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAB-01 EB-11 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-20 /116 R

DRAFTED BY: ARA-LA/PAN:HLSTEIN:GFH

APPROVED BY: ARA-JBKUBISCH

ARA-LA/PAN:PFMORRIS

DOD - MR KOREN (DRAFT)

DOD/ODUSA:COL WALTON (DRAFT)

PPC:TCONSTANT (DRAFT)

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O 192217Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

INFO GOV PANCANAL IMMEDIATE

USSOUTHCOM IMMEDIATE

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1 LINE 7 INCOMPLETE)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, US

SUBJECT: CANAL TOLL INCREASE

REFERENCE: PANAMA 6721

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT OF DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO
PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMING GOP OF PANCANAL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS'DECISION ON PROPOSED INCREASE IN
CANAL TOLL RATES. UNLESS YOU PERCEIVE DIFFICULTIES
WITH SUGGESTED LANGUAGE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER
NOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER ON DECEMBER 20 AND INFORM
DEPARTMENT THEREOF ASAP THEREAFTER. PANCANAL SECRETARY
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WISHES TO INSERT FEDERAL REGISTER NOTICE AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AFTER NOTIFICATION OF GOP TO PERMIT COMPANY

TO CARRY OUT NECESSARY PROCEDURES (HEARINGS, ETC.) BY
JULY 1, 1974, PROPOSED DATE FOR NEW RATES TO GO INTO
EFFECT.

2. ON DELIVERY OF THE NOTE EMBASSY SHOULD INDICATE
THAT WE APPRECIATE FACT FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT
MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON TOLL INCREASE, THAT IT
IS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT WE ARE PROVIDING GOP ADVANCE
NOTICE OF TOLL INCREASE PROPOSAL. IN THE INTEREST
OF MAINTAINING PRESENT NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE WE
PREFER LIMITING EXCHANGES ON THIS MATTER TO OFFICIAL
CHANNELS.

3. BEGIN QUOTE: EXCELLENCY:

QUOTE I HAVE THE HONOR OF COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR
EXCELLENCY CONCERNING THE SUBJECT OF AN INCREASE IN TOLL
RATES FOR SHIPS TRANSITING THE PANAMA CANAL. I HAVE
ENCLOSED FOR YOUR EXCELLENCY'S INFORMATION A RESOLU-
TION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PANAMA
CANAL COMPANY RESPECTING A PROPOSED TOLL INCREASE.

QUOTE THIS RESOLUTION DIRECTS THE COMPANY TO PUBLISH
THE PROPOSED RATE CHANGES IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER SIX
MONTHS BEFORE THE CHANGES CAN BE EFFECTED. A PUBLIC
HEARING WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 5, 1974 IN WASHINGTON,
D.C. AT A LOCATION AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED SO THAT
INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PRESENT THEIR VIEWS ON THE
PROPOSAL. THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES MUST
APPROVE THE NEW RATES BEFORE THEY CAN BECOME EFFECTIVE.

QUOTE I HAVE ALSO ENCLOSED A COPY OF THE PANAMA CANAL
COMPANY'S REPORT ON ADEQUACY OF TOLL RATES.

QUOTE ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY, THE ASSURANCES ETC. END QUOTE.

4. AMBASSADOR SAYRE HAS CLEARED THIS MESSAGE.

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5. GOVERNOR'S OFFICE HAS COPY OF RESOLUTION AND
CANAL COMPANY STUDY AND WILL MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO
EMBASSY FOR DELIVERY WITH NOTE. RUSH

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